

Yankee Doodle to communicate lelp them Dandy

ongs are used to share ideas and to communicate with people in ways that would help them remember. "One good song is worth a thousand addresses and proclamations," said Joseph Barlow, a poet, statesman and friend of Thomas Jefferson, at the beginning of the American Revolution.

In fact, during the American Revolution, songs were used to shape how people thought about issues and other people. The popular song *Yankee Doodle* is a good example. It was written by a British man to make fun of the American colonists. The British used it to **ridicule** those who thought differently from themselves. They would sing it as a way of reinforcing their beliefs and communicating to others that American colonists were stupid and silly people incapable of self-government. At the time, a "doodle" was a foolish person. "Yankees" were the colonists in New England. "Macaroni" was a fashionable hair style popular in England at the time.

The original song whose tune was taken for *Yankee Doodle* was called *Lydia Fisher's Jig*. Sing the tune again with these words:

Lucy Locket lost her pocket, Kitty Fisher found it; Nothing in it, nothing on it, But the binding 'round it.

It was quite common in years past to take a popular, well-known tune and to write new verses for it. In fact, is was years after Sir Francis Scott Key wrote his poem, *The Star Spangled Banner*, that it was sung to the tune of a well-known British drinking song. Today that is our **National Anthem.**

Yankee Doodle

Yankee Doodle went to town A'riding on a pony
He stuck a feather in his cap
And called it macaroni.

Chorus:

Yankee doodle, keep it up, Yankee doodle dandy; Mind the music and the step, And with the girls be handy.

Father and I went down to camp, Along with Captain Gooding; And there we saw the men and boys, As thick as hasty pudding.

Chorus

There was Captain Washington Upon a slapping stallion, A-giving orders to his men, I guess there was a million.

Chorus

To do: Learn the rhythm and pattern of this song well. You will use it to write one of your own. See **Balladeer**.



